

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 L-02

H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 IO-10 FEA-01 OES-03 SAM-01

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LIMA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

DEPARTMENT PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EGEN, ECIN, MX

SUBJECT: SECRETARY ALEJO COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
SCENE

REF: MEXICO 2176

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY ALEJO COMMENTED MARCH 11 ON SEVERAL
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MATTERS, INCLUDING ALLEGED FULL
SUPPORT LA COUNTRIES FOR SELA, PLANS FOR SILVER CARTEL,
CRITICISMS OF TRADE ACT, AND CLAIM THAT OPEC OPERATIONS IN
SPIRIT OF ECHEVERRIA CHARTER. SELA BEING GIVEN PUBLICITY PUSH
HERE IN DAYS BEFORE ECHEVERRIA-PEREZ
ANNOUNCEMENT "FORMAL INVITATION" LAS AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES
JOIN SELA, EXPECTED NEXT WEEK. EMBASSY SOLICITS FURTHER
COMMENTS BRASILIA, OTHER LA POSTS, ON DEGREE OF ENTHUSIASM
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OR SUPPORT FOR SELA. END SUMMARY

2. IN WIDE-RANGING PUBLIC STATEMENTS MARCH 11, SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY FRANCISCO JAVIER ALEJO, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM LA TRIP (REFTEL), AND SEEN AS FAST-RISING STAR ON GOM HORIZON, MADE SERIES OF INTERESTING PRESS PRONOUNCEMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, WHICH ARE REPORTED BELOW.

3. SELA. WITH REGARD SISTEMA ECONOMICA LATINOAMERICANA, ALEJO CLAIMED THAT SELA HAS SUPPORT OF "TWENTY-FOUR" LA AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, AND CHARACTERIZED AS A "LIE" EARLIER PRESS REPORTS THAT BRAZIL WAS NOT SUPPORTER OF SELA. ALEJO CLAIMED THAT PRESIDENT GIESEL HAS PERSONALLY DENIED TO HIM PRESS REPORTS SUGGESTING THAT BRAZIL DOES NOT SUPPORT SELA. ALEJO CONFIRMED THAT "FORMAL INVITATION" TO LA AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE ISSUED DURING STATE VISIT PRESIDENT PEREZ TO MEXICO WEEK OF MARCH 17.

4. OIL - ALEJO ALSO NOTED THAT OIL AND SELA WERE TWO PRINCIPAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS, AND THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ WOULD ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TO ATTEND CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING ANNIVERSARY EXPROPRIATION U.S. AND OTHER FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES IN MEXICO IN 1938. HE INDICATED STRONG SUPPORT FOR ORGANIZACION LATINOAMERICANA DE ENERGIA (OLADE), AND ANNOUNCED THAT NEXT OLADE MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN MEXICO SEPT. 8-12, 1975. OPEC, HE ADDED, IS AN ORGANIZATION WHICH OPERATES FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRODUCER NATIONS WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS). NEVERTHELESS, MEXICO DOES NOT INTEND TO JOIN OPEC, HE ADDED, BECAUSE THE GOM STATE OIL AGENCY IS NOT A SUBSTANTIAL OR LONG-TERM CRUDE EXPORTER. MEXICAN CRUDE WILL BE USED IN FUTURE AS RAW MATERIAL FOR MEXICAN REFINERIES, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PETROCHEMICAL OPERATIONS FOR DOMESTIC USE, AND FOR EXPORT OF REFINED PRODUCTS, HE SAID.

5. SILVER. ALEJO ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT MEXICO WAS COOPERATING WITH PERU (SEE LIMA 1995) TO ORGANIZE WORLD-WIDE SILVER CARTEL TO FIGHT ALLEGED U.S. EFFORTS (E.G. SELLING FROM STOCKPILED SILVER) TO DEPRESS WORLD SILVER PRICES. IN ADDITION TO PERU, OTHER PRINCIPAL PRODUCERS, INCLUDING CANADA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD BE INVITED JOIN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION. WHEN ASKED WHETHER SUCH A CARTEL WOULD UNDER NEW TRA PROVISIONS COST MEXICO MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT IN ITS U.S. TRADE (SIC), ALEJO RESPONDED THAT DEVELOPING NATIONS SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID OF U.S. "COERCIVE" MEASURES, BUT SHOULD BANK TOGETHER AND STAND UP TO THEM.

6. COMMENTS: IMPRESSIONS GAINED FROM RECENT REPORTS ON LA

ATTITUDES TOWARD SELA (NOTED REFTTEL) FAIL TO BEAR OUT ALEJO'S
ASSESSMENT ITS UNIVERSAL POPULARITY. EMBASSY SUGGESTS
FURTHER AMPLIFICATION THIS SUBJECT, PARTICULARLY FROM EMBASSY
BRASILIA, WOULD BE MOST USEFUL.
JOVA

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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